



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 21st September 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports the Prime Minister is today expected to announce an inquiry into the response of federal and state governments to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#), [The Australian](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [The Guardian](#)
- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports the helpline for Indigenous Australians is receiving a record number of calls, with many saying they are receiving racial abuse ahead of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)
- The [**Courier Mail**](#) (page 1) reports more Queenslanders are receiving vital surgery and accessing specialist care in the state's hospital than before the COVID pandemic, but thousands are still waiting longer than is clinically recommended, new data has revealed.
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 3) reports world-leading melanoma pathologist Richard Scolyer has become the first patient in the world to receive a personalised brain cancer vaccine. *Also reported by:* [Hobart Mercury](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [ABC Online](#)
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 4) reports the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has announced a review to examine how to reinvigorate the sector, with workers saying they are dissatisfied

and overworked.

- The **Herald Sun** (page 7) reports every person on earth is exposed to almost ten days of "health impacting" fire smoke pollution each year, while over 2 billion people experience "substantial" hazardous pollution from fires, new Australian research has found. *Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser*
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 12) reports South Australia's Treasurer Stephen Mullighan has rejected calls to extend a payroll tax for some GP clinics, while refuting AMA claims up to one in three of the state's medical practices may close as a result.
- **ABC News** reports one in seven Australian women aged 44 to 49 are estimated to have endometriosis, a new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found. *Also reported by: Launceston Examiner, Daily Telegraph Australia, 9News, SBS*
- **Australian Doctor** reports over 130,000 documents or a decade's worth of medical records including Medicare and doctors' provider numbers have been hacked by cybercriminals, Victorian pathology provider TissuPath says.

MINISTER BUTLER

Fears COVID-19 probe panel will fall short

Australian Financial Review, General News, 21/09/2023, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

The Albanese government is expected to announce today an expert panel to lead an inquiry into Australia's COVID19 response.

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Butler taps health orgs to back him on Voice

Australian Financial Review, General News, 21/09/2023, Page 43

A chance like this comes once in a generation. And you better believe Health Minister Mark Butler doesn't intend to flub it.

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online).

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Pandemic royal commission refusal 'a protection racket'

The Australian, General News, 21/09/2023, Greg Brown, Page 4

The Coalition has accused Anthony Albanese of running a "protection racket" for Labor premiers after refusing to hold a royal commission into the Covid-19 pandemic. The Prime Minister and Health Minister Mark Butler are on Thursday expected to announce an inquiry into the handling the pandemic, but it will not have the investigative powers of a royal commission.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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PM will announce COVID-19 inquiry

Sydney Morning Herald, Wrap, 21/09/2023, James Massola and Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will announce the long-awaited inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic today. The 12-month inquiry will not be a royal commission but is expected to have wide-ranging powers to call witnesses. [...] Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler will release the terms of reference for the inquiry, which will be led by medical and economic experts.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne), Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney).

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Claim of a Covid cop-out

Daily Telegraph, General News, 21/09/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 3

Lack of royal commission into pandemic labelled a 'protection racket for premiers' Labor has been accused of running a "protection racket" for state premiers by opting to hold an inquiry into Australia's

Covid response instead of a royal commission with the power to compel witnesses. [...] In January 2022, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged to hold a "royal commission or some form of inquiry" into the country's handling of Covid-19 should Labor be elected to government, with Health Minister Mark Butler this month confirming a "deep inquiry" would be held.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Heart Foundation strongly welcomes new tobacco laws

CQ Today, General News, 20/09/2023, Page 4

The Heart Foundation strongly welcomes the introduction of the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023 as a critical action to prevent and further reduce the heart health harm caused to people by tobacco products and nicotine addiction. [...] We commend Health Minister Mark Butler and the Australian Government for their commitment to the health and wellbeing of all people living in Australia.

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Australian Covid-19 probe to be announced as royal commission rejected

The Australian, Other, 20/09/2023, Jack Quail

The government has rejected demands for a royal commission into Australia's handling of COVID-19, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler expected to instead announce an inquiry into the pandemic on Thursday. It is understood the inquiry will be conducted by an all-female panel which will include an economist, an epidemiologist and a public administration official.

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PM set to announce COVID-19 inquiry: report

Canberra Times, Other, 20/09/2023, Paul Osborne

Federal Labor is poised to announce an inquiry into how Australia handled the coronavirus pandemic, with details expected soon. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is likely to make the announcement alongside Health Minister Mark Butler in Adelaide on Thursday, Nine media outlets have reported.

Also reported by: [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#).

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Federal government injects \$240k into Asthma Foundation NT

Northern Territory News, Other, 20/09/2023, Sierra Haigh

Asthmatics across the Territory are rejoicing after a massive funding boost for the foundation. Here's what it means to one sufferer. [...] Territorian and asthmatic Fiona Darcy was thrilled to hear federal Health Minister Mark Butler had allocated \$240,000 to the Asthma Foundation NT over the next two years.

[Read More](#)

CareFlight given \$19.95m by federal government for second helicopter and new jet

NT Independent, Other, 20/09/2023

CareFlight has been given \$19.95 million by the federal government to buy a second helicopter and an aeromedical jet, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has said. Mr Butler said in the statement the Gulfstream G150 jet would allow CareFlight to rapidly respond to medical emergencies, and provide support to other crisis events across the region and the country.

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'Continuing dysfunction and poor culture': National Mental Health Commission found most unwell

Crikey, Other, 20/09/2023, Julian Bajkowski

A review of the NMHC paints a bleak picture, with current and former staff reporting 'anxiety, depression or suicidal ideation'. [...] In a report that was never going to be pretty, but has come out looking like a horror show, the review of the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) set rolling by Health Minister Mark Butler will now almost certainly result in the agency being rebuilt from scratch because of woeful or almost non-existent governance in many areas.

[Read More](#)

Anthony Albanese expected to announce inquiry into Australia's Covid response – reports

The Guardian, Other, 20/09/2023, Josh Butler

A leading infectious diseases expert says an inquiry into the Covid pandemic must look at all aspects of governments' responses, including factors beyond medical issues, such as decisions around lockdowns and school closures. [...] The prime minister, Anthony Albanese, and health minister Mark Butler are expected to announce the inquiry in Adelaide on Thursday.

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Australia's COVID-19 inquiry announced, as public health leaders highlight importance of learning pandemic lessons

Croakey, Other, 21/09/2023, Alison Barrett

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler are expected to announce details of an inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic today (21 September), according to The Sydney Morning Herald The news comes as Member States attend the UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response in New York this week, an opportunity to discuss "serious shortcomings" in preparedness demonstrated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The Health Wrap: mental health reform, spotlight on TB, latest on tobacco control, and an opioid tragedy

Croakey, Other, 20/09/2023, Melissa Sweet

The global tuberculosis epidemic will be the focus of high level discussions at the United Nations on Friday, and come as Australian health authorities deal with significant outbreaks in remote Indigenous communities, reports Adjunct Professor Lesley Russell. [...] Mental health reforms are slow Last year Health Minister Mark Butler announced that the Albanese Government would not extend the temporary COVID-19 measure to subsidise an additional 10 sessions with a psychologist, GP or other eligible allied health worker under the Better Access program.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News Tonight, 20/09/2023, Manny Tsigas

Urgent healthcare clinics are set to open in Darwin and Alice Springs in a matter of weeks The clinics will offer treatment from doctors and nurses seven days a week, helping to reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments. One of the clinics will open in Palmerston from the 1st of October, while an Alice Springs clinic is due to open the following month. The announcement is part of the Federal Government's budget commitment to grow the number of urgent healthcare clinics across the country.

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ABC, ABC News, 20/09/2023, Eleni Roussos

Accessing medical care for those with a pressing health concern will soon become more convenient for some residents with two Medicare urgent health care clinics set to open in Darwin and Alice Springs in a matter of weeks. The clinics will offer treatment from doctors and nurses seven days a week, helping to reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments. The announcement is part of the Federal Government's budget commitment to grow the number of urgent health care clinics across the country. Federal health Minister Mark Butler says urgent care centres will be open seven days a week and they'll be available for walk in patients.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 19:00 News, 20/09/2023

The Federal Health Minister says he's confident the Congress Northside Clinic in Alice Springs will have enough staff to operate a future urgent care facility. Congress is set to open the clinic in November to non-emergency patients. Congress is set to open the clinic in November to non-emergency patients. It's one of 58 Medicare funded clinics announced in this year's federal budget. Mark Butler says he is aware of the acute shortage of health workers in the Territory.

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MIX 104.9, 360, 20/09/2023, Katie Woolf

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health on second rescue helicopter for CareFlight in NT. Butler says having two helicopters in the air and that already started last month means that there will be 365 days per year coverage for Territorians in the Top End. He adds a second jet is coming on which should be available for service late this year. He states it gives CareFlight more capacity to respond to emergencies out in remote parts of the Territory. Butler discusses two new bulk billing clinics are opening in Darwin and Alice Springs which will open seven days a week.

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ABC Alice Springs, Drive Show, 20/09/2023, Paul Serratore

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health. Butler discusses two new Medicare urgent care clinic opening in Alice Springs and Darwin. He notes they've been doing communications campaigns in local regions to lift awareness and opened 50 urgent care clinics across the country. He notes ministers Malarndirri McCarthy and Ged Kearney held a workforce summit a few weeks ago here for the Territory wherein he got good briefing, and his department is working on it. He states there's a clear shortage of nurses and we need to train more Aboriginal health workers and practitioners out in remote communities.

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ABC Capricornia, Breakfast, 20/09/2023, Paul Culliver

Interview with Dr Stephen Liew, President, Australian Dental Association. Liew says 1 in 3 Australian adults has untreated tooth decay and 1 in 3 kids has experienced toothache. He notes they got 1 in 100 kids being hospitalised annually for preventable dental conditions. He says it's important to recognise the work of the Senate Select Committee led by Senator Jordon Steele-John, because they are shining a light on the issue in a way that's never been done before and summarising all of it in recommendations that the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, could act on.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 20/09/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Corey Irlam, acting CEO, COTA Council of the Ageing about submission to this inquiry on access to dental services. Irlam says for many Australians, including older Australians, access to affordable dental support is just out of reach. He states there seems to be a good level of support for seniors' dental benefit scheme, but they need to see political leadership from people like the Health Minister Mark Butler, to actually get this across the line and implement it.

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MINISTER WELLS

Swimmers told to be careful

Chelsea-Mordialloc News, General News, 20/09/2023, Brodie Cmyburn, Page 4

Swimmers are being urged to take care when the weather warms up to lower the risk of drowning. A new report has revealed that 281 people nationally died from drowning between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023. [...] Federal aged care and sport minister Anika Wells said "with very hot and dry conditions forecast this summer, water safety should be top of mind.

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Regional drowning warning

Border Chronicle, General News, 20/09/2023, Page 6

As the weather warms up Royal Life Saving Society Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia are warning Australians to keep water safety top at the top of their minds. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells said enjoying a swim had so many benefits for people of all ages, "I urge all Australians to always supervise children around water, learn swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills, wear a lifejacket when boating, and rock fishing and to swim at a patrolled beach between the red and yellow flags," she said.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Gladstone welcomes new 'head to health' service

Gladstone News, Other, 20/09/2023, Stefani Seumanu

The Gladstone community will have greater access to free mental health care and support with the announcement of a new Head to Health adult mental health service. This new service builds on the existing network of services in Queensland. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride has commented on the initiative and the benefits this will bring to the community.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Ahead of a grim summer, pressure mounts on Federal Government for effective climate action

Croakey, Other, 21/09/2023, Melissa Sweet

As Australia faces a dry, hot summer, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians has called for the Federal Government to urgently implement the National Health and Climate Strategy so we have a "robust national system" to better respond to climate change. [...] National health and climate strategy A spokesperson for Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney told Croakey that the Government is currently developing the National Health and Climate Strategy and it is anticipated the Strategy will be released in late 2023.

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Anthony Albanese wasn't taken seriously on Aboriginal issues: Yes campaigner Trish Crossin claims

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 20/09/2023, Stephen Johnson

A leading Yes campaigner has revealed Anthony Albanese wasn't taken seriously on Indigenous issues when an elected Aboriginal body was abolished decades ago. [...] Speaking on ABC's Q+A program, Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said she had grave concerns as to what a No vote would mean. She lost her Labor Senate preselection in 2013 when then prime minister Julia Gillard insisted Aboriginal Olympian Nova Peris top the ticket.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 20/09/2023, Patricia Karvelas and Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Maree Davenport, CEO, Endometriosis Australia about new data out today shows that

14% of girls and women in Australia are now living with endometriosis. Davenport says they welcome Assistant Minister Ged Keaney's attention to and investment in endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics however, most of them aren't up and running yet and as soon as they've been announced.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Senior public servants selected for Harvard scholarship

The Mandarin, Other, 20/09/2023, Anna MacDonald

Six mandarins from federal and state jurisdictions have been awarded a scholarship to study at the Harvard Kennedy School in the United States. It is the highest number of recipients in the scholarship's 11-year history. [...] Previous scholarship recipients include Health and Aged Care secretary Blair Comley, Treasury secretary Dr Steven Kennedy, former DFAT secretary Frances Adamson and NSW Premier's Department secretary Simon Draper.

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Designing healthcare's future with Michael Kidd

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/09/2023

Even after the demands of a global pandemic Professor Kidd is still fighting the good fight to transform primary health. In early 2020, Professor Michael Kidd AO was working abroad for the World Health Organization when he got a call from the Australian government asking him to get back home quick smart.

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CORONAVIRUS

So, you've tested positive to COVID-19 but can't record a RAT online — what now?

ABC Online, Other, 20/09/2023, Courtney Withers

For those watching Australia's COVID-19 case tallies, late May and early June not only marked the start of some colder weather, but also a peak in national case numbers and COVID-related deaths. However, since then, a mask sighting on public transport is increasingly rare and at home medicine cabinets are more or less devoid of any self-testing kits.

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Push for more jabs in arms

Berwick Star News, General News, 21/09/2023, Sahar Foladi, Page 9

The South East's Hazara community is being targeted in an innovative promotion to lift Covid-19 vaccine booster rates. Data shows that linguistically and culturally diverse individuals make up 58 per cent of Australia's population that's unvaccinated with a booster dose, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

Also reported by: [Berwick Star News \(Online\)](#), [Cranbourne Star News \(Melbourne\)](#)

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States and territories are moving towards a softer form of recording Covid 19 cases, with some now no longer collecting self-reported rapid antigen test results from the community. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care says it's looking to refine Australia's reporting methods.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Metacap eyes \$300m lifestyle community

Australian Financial Review, Property, 21/09/2023, Campbell Kwan, Page 33

Brisbane-based Metacap will build a \$300 million lifestyle community in regional South Australia to cater to the state's ageing population, doubling the value of the developer's active project portfolio. The lifestyle community in the coastal town of Port...

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Carers and allies rally to reduce stigma

Daily Liberal, General News, 21/09/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 3

Residents with dementia, their carers and allies rallied in Dubbo during an event designed to reduce stigma and fear surrounding the disease. The community gathered at Victoria Park, walked the park's limits and heard from the local dementia choir for the annual week of action, Dementia Awareness Week - an awareness-raising campaign that challenges misconceptions about dementia.

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More Pacific Islanders to meet aged-care demand

West Australian, Other, 20/09/2023, Rachel Green

Pacific Islander workers continue to be recruited to meet the increasing demand for aged care in the Capes region. Under the Federal Government's Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, approved employer HealthX has recently recruited four additional Pacific Islander to local provider CapeCare.

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Jacquie Millynn, LiveBetter's Head of Workforce Development said Australian's need better aged and disability care and having trained, and competent staff is crucial to this.

Daily Liberal, Other, 20/09/2023

After months of preparation, LiveBetter's newest venture, LiveBetter Academy, is now up and running, and Monday, September 11, sees the inaugural three-day Better Beginnings training cross the start line. This training will initially be held fortnightly in Orange and monthly in Dubbo and adds to the Better Leaders training which commenced last month.

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The Aussie service helping family stories live on, despite dementia

The New Daily, Other, 20/09/2023, Ash Cant

"When somebody that you love, like a parent or a grandparent or a partner, dies from dementia, it takes a while to remember what that person was like before," Dimity Brassil, whose father died from dementia, says. "Because all you can remember is the disease and everything that it took from them and you, and it can be distressing to remember them.

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'I'm excited about the role'

Deborah Hawthorne talks about the new role of the embedded aged care pharmacist In this podcast, our host, Carlene McMaugh, speaks to award-winning consultant pharmacist Deborah Hawthorne, about the beginning of the embedded aged care pharmacy role. Saying she's "excited about the role", Hawthorne says there will be "lots of confusion and lots of need

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Retirement Living Council welcomes Victorian housing plan

Australian Seniors News, Other, 20/09/2023

The Retirement Living Council has welcomed today's release of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement, which outlines a plan to deliver millions of additional homes across Victoria but says retirement communities must be part of the solution. RLC Executive Director, Daniel Gannon said the plan was a positive step for Victoria.

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Aged care overhaul an ethical challenge

Community Care Review, Other, 20/09/2023

Major reform of the aged care sector is ranked among the top five ethical challenges for 2024, according to a new report. Released by the Governance Institute of Australia and based on a survey of 1,000 people, the Ethics Index 2023 lists the overhaul of the aged care industry number four in the top 10 ethical challenges facing the country next year.

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A third of audit home care services non-compliant

Community Care Review, Other, 20/09/2023, Christopher Kelly

The number of complaints about home care services has fallen slightly while almost one in three services subject to a quality audit were found to be non-compliant with at least one standard, according to the quality commission's latest report. In all, there were 1,108 complaints directed against home care during the April-June 2023 quarter the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's latest sector performance report shows.

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Going above and beyond: Brisbane aged care staff make couple's dream come true

HelloCare, Other, 20/09/2023, Bianca Iovino

Brisbane grandparents Bob and Gloria Coit were unable to physically attend their grandson's wedding last weekend but that didn't stop them from missing out on the action. Staff at the Anglicare EM Tooth Residential Aged Care home went above and beyond to make sure the Coits felt a part of the celebrations, even though they couldn't attend in person.

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Home and Away's Jessica Redmayne is a Dementia Australia ambassador in honour of her mother

The Senior, Other, 20/09/2023

Home and Away's Jessica Redmayne is a Dementia Australia ambassador in honour of her mother.

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Supreme Court overturns aged care home's wife ban

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/09/2023, Caroline Egan

A Darwin woman has had a ban on visiting her "lonely and confused" husband at Pearl Supported Care Facility in Fannie Bay, Darwin, overturned by the Supreme Court. Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & VIC), which manages the home, said Fathma Mauger "bullied and harassed" staff at the home, and banned her from visiting her 77-year-old husband Graham in his room, suggesting alternative meeting places including the chapel, a hairdressing salon and a downstairs area, The Courier Mail reported

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Aussies uncomfortable around people with dementia, study finds

Your Life Choices, Other, 21/09/2023, Brad Lockyer

Almost one-third of Australians say they find it frightening dealing with people suffering from dementia. The results were revealed in a survey by Dementia Australia.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 20/09/2023, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Siobhan Mackenzie, Younger Onset Dementia Program Coordinator, United War Memorial Hospital. Mackenzie says they're seeing more of the other types of dementia, the frontotemporal dementia, vascular dementia, alcohol related dementia in their programme. She says more people are coming through with more interest in the CTE.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Couples should be splitting bill for pill

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/09/2023, Hannah Vanderheide, Page 28

There are all kinds of jobs involved in heterosexual sex. Some are more fun than others. But it's women who have long been tasked with outlaying the time and money to facilitate a baby-free bang. Much like domestic chores, the mental load, child-growing and subsequent rearing, pregnancy prevention is typically a woman's role. Science is here for us, of course, working to develop a possible evening-up-of-the-score in the form of the male contraceptive pill.

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Billions are affected by bushfire smoke every year

Herald Sun, General News, 21/09/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 7

New Australian-led research has revealed on average every person in the world is exposed to almost 10 days of "health impacting" fire smoke pollution each year. The research also found a staggering 2.1 billion people worldwide experience at least one day a year of "substantial" and hazardous pollution from fires, a figure that has increased 6.8 per cent in the last decade.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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Earlybird exercisers have trimmer waists

West Australian, General News, 21/09/2023, Page 8

Exercising in the morning is the best time to lose weight, according to researchers. A study monitored the exercise patterns of 5300 people for a week using fitness trackers. It found those who exercised between 7am and 9am, for 150 minutes a week or more, had the smallest waistlines.

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Vaping surge

Burnie Advocate, General News, 21/09/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 1

A new study has raised concerns about a surge in nicotine vaping in the state, particularly young people taking it up who would never have smoked otherwise. The Tasmanian study looked at vaping in the age group of 18-24, with another new study investigating the worrying increase in vaping among school-age kids under 18.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#)

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Artificial wombs and animal sex — philosophers weigh in on brave new

futures

ABC Online, Other, 20/09/2023, Natasha-Mitchell

When it comes to biological sex, humans are pretty vanilla. Things are so much wilder in nature. Philosopher of science Paul Griffiths challenges the notion that our biological sex is a rigid, unchangeable thing. Political philosopher Luara Ferracioli contemplates the controversial idea of artificial wombs replacing women's wombs, with babies gestated entirely outside of the human body. What could that mean for the future of parenthood, motherhood, and our relationship to children?

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Australians are being urged to develop heatwave plans. Here's what you need to know

The Guardian, Other, 21/09/2023, Natasha May

Australians should develop heatwave plans to protect themselves against health risks just as they prepare for bushfires, health and disaster experts say. Heatwaves have already begun to sweep through southern Australia this spring, and more are predicted this coming summer, with the Bureau of Meteorology formally declaring an El Nio on Tuesday.

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Young women are sharing their breast reduction stories online

NEWS.com.au, Other, 20/09/2023, Mary Madigan

There's a new and empowering movement happening on TikTok where women are sharing their breast reduction stories. TikTok has cemented itself as a space for women to talk about their bodies rather than post body photos, and it has opened up nuanced conversations about the reality of having big boobs.

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NAFLD prevalence nears 40% in Aussie study

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins

The proportion of patients eating takeaway food at least once a week also rose across the study period. The prevalence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease has risen to nearly 40% as rates of obesity and takeaway food consumption grow in tandem, Australian researchers report.

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BMI alone is a poor indicator of health, the AMA says. These metrics may be better.

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 21/09/2023, Kaitlin Reilly

Body mass index (BMI) is a simple tool for assessing whether an individual falls into a normal weight range for their height. In order to assess your BMI, you take your weight in kilograms and divide it by the square of your height in meters. Those with a BMI of 25 to 29.9 score are considered overweight, while those above 30 fall into the obese category.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 20/09/2023, David Bevan

Interview with Martin Fletcher, CEO, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Martin says there's no doubt that the cosmetic sector is booming, but warns these procedures are not like getting a haircut. He states major health practitioners involved in this - medical practitioners, doctors, registered nurses. He notes they're also increasingly seeing areas like dental cosmetic dentistry becoming more and more into focus as well. He says posts on social media often overemphasises benefits and downplays risks.

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New lawsuit alleges British government covered up nuclear test medical records for past 70 years amid new evidence blood testing occurred for servicemen

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/09/2023, Andrew Hough and Susie Boniface in London

Victims of nuclear testing in SA are launching a new legal fight amid fresh evidence of a British government cover-up. Are you affected?

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Top doctor 'patient zero' in cancer trial

The Australian, General News, 21/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

An Australian doctor has become the first patient in the world to receive a personalised brain cancer vaccine in what is hoped to be the new frontier in treatment for the most deadly types of tumours. Melanoma pathologist Richard Scolyer, who is a world leader in his field and co-director of the Melanoma Institute of Australia, has volunteered to receive the immunotherapy treatment ahead of surgery.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Eye test could help diagnose diabetes

Canberra Times, General News, 21/09/2023, Aaron Bunch, Page 5

Scientists have developed a new method of diagnosing diabetes and high blood pressure that involves shining light into a patient's eyes. Researchers say the procedure has the potential to enable earlier intervention and more effective medical treatment, and could also be used to detect other heart-related diseases.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Shedding light on risks behind mystery spread of nasty ulcer

Age, General News, 21/09/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 9

People with diabetes and tradies working with soil are at higher risk of developing the Buruli ulcer, a new study suggests, as cases of the flesh-eating disease spread to new areas of Victoria and the country. Almost 250 people who have developed the nasty bacterial infection and 481 unaffected people living on either side of Port Phillip Bay were involved in the research, the largest study into risk factors for the painful ulcer, and things that can protect against it.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Grim fight for funding

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 9

Laura Loughhead and Scott Barton are fighting for government financial support for their terminally ill little boy Spencer, who doctors say has less than a year to live. Caught in the middle of state and federal agencies passing the buck, the five year-old was initially accepted as a National Disability Insurance Scheme participant before he was rejected when attempting to obtain funding for therapies and equipment.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Help in memory of Maddy

Courier Mail, General News, 21/09/2023, Jill Poulsen, Page 9

Maddy McKinnon made more friends in her eight years than many of us could hope to make in a lifetime. Born healthy, at just five weeks old, meningitis damaged more than 50 per cent of her brain and at 18 months old it led to autoimmune encephalitis.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Cancer Centre set to be a game changer

Barrier Truth, General News, 16/09/2023, Stuart Kavanagh, Page 6

Mildura Health Fund (MHF) has recently opened a state-of the-art cancer centre in Mildura, in a move that medical professionals are calling a game changer for locals, as it cuts travel time for potential patients in Broken Hill in half. "It has been in the pipeline for many, many years.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Diabetes risk for ulcer

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2023, Tamara Mcdonald, Page 4

Diabetes is among a host of risk factors for contracting the mysterious flesh-eating Buruli ulcer uncovered by new research in the Geelong region. Researchers from Barwon Health, Deakin University and CSIRO found the chance of contracting the skin disease more than doubled for people with diabetes. They also found the likelihood of contracting the condition was nearly three times higher for those working outdoors with soil contact in known transmission areas, compared with indoor work.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Troubling rates of young Australians being diagnosed with type two diabetes

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/09/2023

Doctors are sounding the alarm over the troubling rates of young Australians being diagnosed with type two diabetes. The Australian's Health Editor Natasha Robinson says this is a "newly emerging trend" which has not been documented anywhere else in the world.

[Read More](#)

Endometriosis hospitalisation rate almost doubles in a decade, with 20-24 age group seeing the biggest increase, report shows

ABC Online, Other, 20/09/2023, Widia Jalal

One in seven women in Australia aged 44 to 49 are estimated to have endometriosis, a new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report has revealed. Historically under-recognised, endometriosis is a chronic disease that can affect fertility and lead to reduced participation in work, school, and social activities.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Ivani's genetic disease is worsening as she ages. Her mother hopes Australia's new biobank will help

The Guardian, Other, 21/09/2023, Natasha May

Bindu Shree remembers her daughter Ivani had "such a nice plump face as a baby", but now she sees gravity pulling down her four-year-old's cheeks as the muscles in her face become weaker. When Ivani was diagnosed with a genetic muscle disease at four months, Shree's first response was to ask the doctors, "What's the treatment? What can we do to help her?"

[Read More](#)

'I'm 35 and have just months to live. All I can think about is my six kids.'

Mamamia, Other, 20/09/2023, Isabella Ross

With six children and a loving husband, Susan has been told she has just months to live. It's a reality that is heartbreaking and one she never anticipated.

[Read More](#)

BreastScreen SA mammograms can be booked online

South Australian women can now book a free breast screen online through the BreastScreen SA website. Such bookings can be made at all 11 BreastScreen SA clinics, including the eight fixed screening clinics and three mobile screening units.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 20/09/2023, Indira Naidoo

Interview with Maree Davenport, CEO, Endometriosis Australia about new data out today shows that 14% of girls and women in Australia are now living with endometriosis. Davenport says the National Health and Medical Research Council NHMRC, has expended \$18.9 million towards research into endometriosis since 2000 to 2022. She says the only definitive diagnosis is through a laparoscopic procedure at the moment, and that is also used to treat the disease. She adds other main treatment available is hormone treatment.

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PRIMARY CARE

State to rent 25 beds at Calvary

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 5

SA Health will rent 25 beds at the private Calvary Adelaide Hospital in a bid to ease ramping but only for people from the southern suburbs. They will be for patients transferred from Flinders Medical Centre and also Noarlunga Hospital, about 30km away.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#)

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Shorter wait for surgery

Courier Mail, General News, 21/09/2023, Jill Poulsen and Mohammad Alfares, Page 1

The number of Queenslanders receiving vital surgery and seeing specialists in Queensland hospitals has returned to preCovid-19 levels, but there are still thousands of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended, new data reveals. Jill Poulsen reports: P5

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Dose of hope for GP war

Courier Mail, General News, 21/09/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 10

The cost of running medical centres in Queensland will increase despite the government offering a lifeline to prevent GPs becoming liable for sixfigure payroll tax bills. But tax experts believe it is unlikely patients will wear the financial hit as medical centres and GPs restructure the way they make payments to each other so as to not fall foul of payroll rules. The experts also warned GPs to make sure they sign up to the state government's amnesty, warning it was safer to get on the list than risk retrospective action from the taxman that could reach hundreds of thousands.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Better access to health care a top priority

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/09/2023, Guy Barnett, Page 25

Regional Tasmanians are set to benefit from the expansion of healthcare services provided by pharmacies, writes Guy Barnett etting the right healthcare, in the right place, at the right time, is part of our government's Glong-term plan. Patients must be at the centre when it comes to accessing healthcare services and that is exactly what the Rockliff Liberal government is delivering for Tasmanians.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

State's sweeping abortion overhauls secure support in Upper House

West Australian, General News, 21/09/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 11

Sweeping reforms to WA's abortion laws have secured the backing of the Legislative Council, clearing the way for the regime to come into effect next year. Leader in the Legislative Council and Minister for Women's Interests Sue Ellery thanked fellow MPs for the tone of the debate, which she said was markedly different from during the original move to legalise abortion in WA in 1998.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Budget confirms cash for hospital

Western Advocate, General News, 21/09/2023, Matt Watson, Page 5

Hundreds of millions of dollars has been confirmed in the newly released NSW Budget for the already announced Bathurst Hospital redevelopment and the duplication of two sections of the Great Western Highway. Member for Bathurst Paul Toole, however, has been quick to point out that there has been no change of heart from the new Labor government in regards to a proposed Great Western Highway tunnel.

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Coalition says NSW budget 'cuts' essential services

Canberra Times, Other, 21/09/2023, Duncan Murray

The NSW budget will cut essential services in real terms, the opposition says, ahead of delivering a formal reply to the state's financial outlook. Opposition Leader Mark Speakman says the Labor government's \$13 billion in identified savings contains "hidden" cuts to core services that will be deeply unpopular with voters. [...] Australian Medical Association NSW president, Michael Bonning also expressed concerns over health spending not keeping pace with inflation.

[Read More](#)

NSW Budget investment in regional health and education welcomed by city alliance

The Mandarin, Other, 20/09/2023, Melissa Coade

Measures in the state Budget to lift outcomes and improve services and facilities in NSW's regions have been welcomed by local lawmakers, who are calling for a seat at the table of a newly established advisory council for a \$360 million regional trust. Responding to treasurer Daniel Mookhey's Budget on Tuesday, Regional Cities New South Wales (RCNSW) chair councillor Mathew Dickerson pointed to housing affordability commitments and said his members were looking forward to working with the state government to deliver.

[Read More](#)

The program transforming regional and rural healthcare

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 20/09/2023, Chloe Hava

In an Australian-first project, PSA has joined forces with the North Coast's PHN, Healthy North Coast, alongside Amplar Health and The George Institute to ensure the community can access the right healthcare services at the right time. The Healthy North Coast' region of NSW spans the east coast from Port Macquarie to the Queensland border.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 20/09/2023, Peter Mitchell

Health experts are sounding the alarm with a major drug rehab centre about to shut in Melbourne's southeast. They say the closure will force addicts to seek help at already overcrowded local hospitals as the Vic Government wrestles with setting up a second safe injecting room.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 20/09/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

A total of 25 private hospital beds at the Calvary Adelaide are now being rented by the State Government to ease pressure on the public system. The beds will only be used by patients who would otherwise have been admitted to Flinders Medical Centre or no longer hospital. Plans are also being finalised for the \$30 million expansion of the Margaret Tobin Centre next to Flinders to boost the number of mental health beds by ten. The new mental health beds will be ready by mid 2025.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Ballet must turn spotlight on abusive ideals

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/09/2023, Emma Sullivan, Page 29

Eating disorders and the dance industry have felt synonymous for years. As someone who was in the ballet industry for almost two decades, I know. In the depth of my ballet training, my doctor would ask me: "So, what's wrong with you aside from the anorexia?" Generally, dancers are petite due to the sheer physical demands of the art form. Hours of daily training combined with nightly performances can result in a lean and muscular physique, but not always or for all dancers

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Pysch care review after alleged ANU stabbing

Canberra Times, General News, 21/09/2023, Lanie Tindale and Lucy Bladen, Page 1

The ACT government has announced a review of psychiatric care in relation to the violent attack at the Australian National University. Two women remain in hospital with stab wounds after the attack by a man wielding a knife and a frying pan on Monday afternoon In response to Monday's incident, the ACT government has announced a review by the Chief Psychiatrist of the "individual circumstances surrounding this incident".

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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An ADHD fear for over-50s

Cairns Post, General News, 21/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 11

Over-50s are "overlooked" when it comes to diagnosis and treatment of ADHD, according to international experts. They have called for better guidelines on treating people in this age group, saying there is a "striking" gap in knowledge about older people as existing guidelines focus on children and young adults.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Firm in bid to beat the blues

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 21/09/2023, Carwyn Monck, Page 7

A Goldfields mining services company has turned blue to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention. Goldfields Protective Coatings has installed blue signage and number plates on their fleet of light and heavy vehicles, and temporarily adopted blue high-visibility work shirts in support of R U OK?

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Pawsitive influence

Launceston Examiner, General News, 21/09/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 1

Dogs aren't called man's (or woman's) best friend for nothing. These loyal animals have a long-standing history of providing faithful companionship and are one of the best sources of comfort for any human - including patients and their families. This month is Therapy Dog Awareness Month, a month that highlights the incredible roles therapy dogs play in health and aged care.

Strong links between gambling and suicide need to be considered in reform

Canberra Times, Other, 20/09/2023, Carol Bennett

There were just too many stories from people, whose lives had been devastated by gambling, attempting to take their lives. Or too many stories from the families of those who did die by suicide due to the "cost" of gambling. Of course, the cost of gambling is not just financial - it is physical and mental, it fuels domestic violence and family breakup and in extreme cases it leads to suicide.

[Read More](#)

Trans woman's death 'preventable with right support', mother says

The Guardian, Other, 21/09/2023, Libby Brooks

The family of a young trans woman who is believed to have taken her own life have said she was "failed by those tasked with her care", as the coroner investigating her death described services for transgender people as "underfunded and insufficiently resourced". Alice Litman had been waiting to receive gender affirming healthcare for over three years when she died in Brighton at the age of 20 in May 2022.

[Read More](#)

NSW police look to replace mental health response program lauded as 'so successful'

The Guardian, Other, 21/09/2023, Tamsin Rose and Catie McLeod

New South Wales police are looking to replace a program designed to provide "person-centred, trauma-informed care" to people with severe mental health challenges despite the police minister describing it as "so successful". Under the Police, Ambulance, Clinical, Early, Response (Pacer) program, mental health clinicians employed by NSW Health are stationed with police to ensure police powers are only used when necessary in responding to mental health crises.

[Read More](#)

Another tragic death shows police should not be first responders in mental health crises

The Guardian, Other, 20/09/2023, George Newhouse and Duncan Fine

If there's one thing even more shocking than the bare facts of the death of 47-year-old Krista Kach at the hands of police during a mental health crisis in Newcastle last week, it's that similar deaths at the hands of police are happening with alarming frequency. Kach died after a shot from a bean bag round pierced her chest. The use of bean bag rounds is classified as a less-than-lethal weapon in the police armoury (along with Tasers and capsicum spray).

[Read More](#)

'No signs': Text message Melbourne woman sent her best friend before he took his life

NEWS.com.au, Other, 20/09/2023, Brielle Burns

Rachel was sorting through belongings in her Melbourne home when she came across an old photo. Encased in a dusty frame, was a picture of her best friend of 20 years, Daniel, taken years earlier. Young and happy, he's wearing a baseball cap as he kneels and smiles at the camera. That night, on July 16, 2021, Rachel took a photo of the image and texted it to Daniel. "Doing some spring cleaning and found one of my special treasures," she wrote.

[Read More](#)

Ange is just 19 and struggling to live with an 'older person's' illness

SBS, Other, 20/09/2023, Sandra Fulloon

In Australia, around 1.5 million people care for someone living with dementia and there is no cure. Dementia affects thousands of children, also impacting the parents who support them.

[Read More](#)

Experts weigh in on how to forge a positive future for mental health nurses

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 20/09/2023, Robert Fedele

What does a positive future for Australia's mental health nurses look like and, equally important, how can it be achieved? It's a complex question that was posed to a panel of leading experts at last Friday's Australian College of Mental Health Nursing (ACMHN) 47th International Mental Health Nursing Conference in Melbourne.

[Read More](#)

Corrine Lee-Cheu, Atherton State High School: Tragic suicide of bullied 13-year-old girl devastates 'wrecked' family that now demands real help for tormented kids: 'We will not let her death be in vain'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/09/2023, Tita Smith

For Corrine Lee-Cheu's family, last Wednesday seemed like a perfectly normal afternoon for her. The 13-year-old visited her grandmother after school, spoke to her aunty on the phone, then had dinner with her family before going to her room. Then she took her own life. 'We are devastated. Completely lost,' grandma Patricia Stewart told Daily Mail Australia.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, The Project, 20/09/2023, Waleed Aly, Sarah Harris, Sam Taunton and Matt Okine

Professor Susan Rossell from Swinburne University says people are becoming influencers with really quite severe eating disorders, and that shouldn't be allowed to. She states new research reveals current eating disorder treatments are ineffective.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 20/09/2023, Tiffany Warne

Private hospital beds are being loaned to help alleviate pressure in the public system amid a crippling period and now there are fears a trip to the GP could get more costly for South Australians with a public system under immense strain, taxpayers are forking out more for beds in private hospitals. The State Government's bean counters are investigating whether to implement a new payroll tax on doctors in clinics. The Australian Medical Association says it could lump hundreds of thousands of dollars per year on practises and see GP's resigning or retiring and less bulk billing.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Afternoons, 20/09/2023, Jade Robran

Panel discussion with John Mannion, CEO, Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation, Tracey Wade, Director, Flinders University Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Ivanka Prichard, Director of Embrace Impact Lab, Flinders University about at least 1 million Australians, both children and adults, are living with eating disorders.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 20/09/2023, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Sam Lee, Senior Solicitor, Redfern Legal Centre about calls for more mental health teams to go in emergency situations for mental health checks. Lee says in many situations there are professionals who respond to persons who have a weapon like mental health professionals, nurses or even youth workers don't use weapons themselves to de-escalate the situation.

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Review hopes to find solution for midwives shortage

Herald Sun, General News, 21/09/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 4

A major review of Australia's midwives announced on Thursday will look to reinvigorate the workforce as dissatisfied health professionals say they are stressed, overworked and burnt out. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) also wants to understand how best to attract more people to the profession to ensure its future in Australia.

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Earn while they learn: ERH nursing student workforce grows

Shepparton News Online, Other, 20/09/2023

Erh RUSONs Rebecca Crawford and Tazarni Clarke. Earn while they learn was the Victorian Government's theory behind the development of the Registered Undergraduate Student of Nursing (RUSON) model. By early 2020 after the arrival of COVID, the model had become an accepted part of Victoria's healthcare system, and a welcome addition to the state's pandemic response.

[Read More](#)

'Obstetric violence' casts obstetricians as perpetrators – but we can do better for women who have suffered

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/09/2023, Vijay Roach

The record number of submissions to the NSW parliamentary inquiry into birth trauma underscores that the birth of a baby, while a joyous occasion, is associated with significant physical and psychological trauma for many women, with sequelae that can be life changing

[Read More](#)

Nurses, midwives and personal care workers says Yes to the Voice

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 20/09/2023, Natalie Dragon

Nurses, midwives and personal care workers joined tens of thousands of Australians to Walk for Yes on Sunday in support for constitutional change for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The Yes campaign walks were held in all state and territories to garner support for a "Yes" vote in the upcoming referendum on 14 October.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctors fear tax grab pain

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 12

Treasurer Stephen Mullighan will not extend an amnesty on GP clinics liable for payroll tax beyond June 30 next year, saying it would mean some get an extended "tax holiday" while other practices have been paying the tax for years. He also refuted Australian Medical Association claims up to one in three practices may shut due to the tax - which would add pressure on clogged hospital EDs and ambulance ramping.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#)

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Nurse answers call button

Ballarat Courier, General News, 21/09/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 1

More than 120 nurses, social workers and pharmacists from overseas have been recruited to work in Ballarat as part of a Grampians Health international recruitment campaign. Since March 2022 the health service has advertised overseas for a range of roles to bolster its local workforce that is experiencing staff shortages amid a larger national skilled work shortage - particularly among nurses.

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Frontline fight

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 21/09/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

Paramedics feel betrayed and angry by the Labor Government's first budget, which they say has failed to deliver any certainty when it comes to better pay for their struggling workforce. Wollongong Health Services Union (HSU) delegate Tess Oxley said her colleagues were feeling underwhelmed by the government's failure to lay out details about whether they would get pay increases.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Mayors back outlay on health, housing

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 21/09/2023, Glen Humphries, Page 4

Support for affordable housing and healthcare workers in Tuesday's NSW state budget got the tick of approval from the Illawarra mayors. But concerns were raised about infrastructure spending in West Dapto, roads in Shellharbour and the city's rail line. Kiama Mayor Neil Reilly was pleased with the \$2.5 billion in funding to bolster employment in health care.

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Search continues for permanent GP as new private doctor surgery opens in town

Launceston Examiner, General News, 21/09/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 7

While the search for a permanent GP at Campbell Town continues, a new private doctor surgery has opened to the community. The new Ochre Health private general practice has two locum doctors working at the practice who are supported by two nurses and two receptionists.

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GP says tax ruling could kill clinics

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 21/09/2023, Ben, Page 7

A warrnambool general practitioner says many GP clinics will become "non-viable" if the Victorian government applies a previously unused payroll tax law to medical centres across the state. The State Revenue Office released a ruling in late August that said medical practitioners like GPs were operating as "common law employees" of their medical clinics, which meant the medical clinics were liable to pay payroll tax for them.

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GPs try new patient rules to cope with crippling demand

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Corporate Ochre Health hopes initiatives at two Tasmanian practices will ease patient wait times. Two GP practices are trialling measures to free up appointments including dedicating a doctor to repeat scripts and asking patients to restrict requests for results to particular hours.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists 'struggling' to find prescribing preceptors

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 20/09/2023

Suggestions that GPs in North Queensland are supportive of the state government pharmacy scope of practice pilot are inaccurate, a Mackay-based doctor claims Pharmacy Guild of Australia officials are "dreaming" if they think the North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (NQSPP) has widespread support from GPs in the area, a former pharmacist says.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Dinkum Doc gives hybrid model a fair go

The launch of Dinkum Doc, a novel cloud-based Australian video health platform, demonstrated that it can "seamlessly integrate" with various systems such as the PBS medicines database MIMS, My Health Record, and e-Prescription systems. This integration facilitates the secure transmission of electronic prescriptions to patients who are mobile via SMS and email.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Hackers steal 10 years of pathology requests, including Medicare provider numbers

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Australian Federal Police is investigating after 10 years of pathology requests, including patients' Medicare numbers and doctors' provider numbers, were hacked by cybercriminals. Victorian pathology provider TissuPath says around 130,000 documents mostly request forms scanned at the company between 2011 and 2020 were stolen from a third-party IT supplier.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Honourable work': Surgeon hits out at media coverage

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/09/2023, Michaela Whitbourn, Page 16

High-profile surgeon Dr Munjed Al Muderis has told the Federal Court that his work is honourable as he took aim at Nine newspapers and 60 Minutes over reports he alleges wrongly accuse him of negligence. Al Muderis, clinical professor at Macquarie University, is suing The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and 60 Minutes over reports published and aired in September 2022.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Son angry after waiting 10 hours in ED with his mother to seek urgent treatment

Adelaide Now, Other, 20/09/2023, Agnes Gichuhi

A son speaks of his fury after his elderly mother waited for 10 hours at the emergency department of a major Adelaide hospital to see a doctor. An elderly woman has fallen victim to the state's deteriorating health system, after experiencing a 10-hour wait for treatment at a northern suburbs hospital.

[Read More](#)

NPAQ official's human rights not breached by show cause notice over media comments

The Courier Mail, Other, 20/09/2023, Vanda Carson

A breakaway body representing nurses in workplace matters is not a trade union' so its branch president's human rights were not breached when she received a show cause' email for speaking to the media about the decline in the nursing profession, the state's industrial court has ruled.

[Read More](#)

Surgeon's emergency suspension lifted after 'inexplicable' medical council blunder

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/09/2023, Heather Saxena

The NSW surgeon returned low-level positive drug tests. The Medical Council of NSW has been

criticised by a judge after it suspended an ENT surgeon without acknowledging his expert defence report questioning the evidence against him.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Clinical trial set to change kidney transplant practice

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 20/09/2023, Natalie Dragon

A simple change in practice for deceased donor kidney transplants could reduce the need for dialysis in transplant recipients by 25%. A major clinical trial has found the change in intravenous fluid therapy with balanced crystalloid solution could deliver real benefits for kidney transplant recipients.

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SPORT

Rugby World Cup: Wallabies must work overtime with sports psychologist ahead of Wales

The Australian, Other, 20/09/2023, Brendan Cannon

The most important member of the Wallabies team this week will be their sports psychologist. Trying to digest the loss against Fiji and rise up for the challenge posed by Wales, in a match that will sink or save their World Cup hopes, will be an immense mental task for the players.

[Read More](#)

Andrew Barr says "rescuing" the Brumbies takes priority of ACT's World Cup bid

Canberra Times, Other, 20/09/2023, Chris Dutton

Chief Minister Andrew Barr has rejected pressure to reveal how much the ACT government has offered for a four-game rugby World Cup package, declaring his priority is "rescuing" the Brumbies from a centralisation bid. In a tense exchange in the ACT Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, Barr slammed calls for him to make a commitment to hosting World Cup games in 2027 and 2029 after missing out on Matildas fever this year.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

NSW All Schools Athletics 2023: rising stars and teens flying under the radar to watch

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/09/2023, Amanda Lulham

They are the names we expect to see light up at the Brisbane 2032 Olympics - or in some cases even earlier. And they are ready to rock at the NSW All Schools athletics this weekend. There are speedsters, strongmen and a triple threat. Names already on our radar and others who are just emerging from the pack. The NSW All Schools athletics championships typically throws up a whole host of names for us to watch closely in upcoming years.

[Read More](#)

NRLW players at odds with chief executive Andrew Abdo over expansion

ABC Online, Other, 20/09/2023, Chloe Hart

The 2023 NRLW season has been the biggest yet the hits have been harder, the football faster and the competition closer with 10 teams battling it out across nine rounds. This year, four new teams joined

the competition the Canberra Raiders, Cronulla Sharks, North Queensland Cowboys and Wests Tigers none of which made finals.

[Read More](#)

Amateur racing advocates insist powercruising is safe after death of man during Queensland race

ABC Online, Other, 20/09/2023, Victoria Pengilley

Kyle Douglas believes he was put on Earth for one thing and only thing only to drive fast cars. The self-described revhead travels across the country participating in high-octane drag racing and burnout competitions in his modified ute. But there's one event that's cast a spell over him Powercruise.

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Australia's women win kayak gold at Canoe Slalom World Championships

The Guardian, Other, 20/09/2023

Australia's women kayak team have made a perfect start to the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships winning gold in the team event in London. In challenging conditions, sisters Jessica and Noemie Fox (NSW) and Tasmanian Kate Eckhardt were one of just two K1 teams to not pick up any penalties at the Lee Valley White Water Centre.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Record calls to Indigenous crisis helpline

Sydney Morning Herald, Wrap, 21/09/2023, Page 1

The national helpline for First Nations people is fielding a record number of calls, with many who reach out telling crisis counsellors that they are experiencing racism and abuse as a result of the Indigenous Voice to parliament debate. The helpline is a 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention service designed and delivered by Indigenous people.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#)

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How the Voice will help communities

Central Western Daily, General News, 21/09/2023, Chris Bowen, Page 4

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring our country together and make a practical difference to the lives of First Nations Australians including the local Wiradjuri people. On October 14, Australians will vote for a Voice to Parliament - a vote for recognition and listening to get better results for our traditional owners on issues that matter to them. Because the current approach isn't working.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#)

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Honeypot ant honey used in Indigenous traditional medicine effective against golden staph bacteria

ABC Online, Other, 20/09/2023, Emma Haskin

Honey from the abdomen of an ant that lives predominantly in the arid regions of Australia has proven to be effective against the potentially deadly golden staph bacteria, according to a recent study. The

study was led by Dee Carter from the University of Sydney, who said the compound from the honeypot ant was effective in small concentrations against the drug-resistant bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*.

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Human rights groups condemn police violence against 11-year-old in the NT

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/09/2023

Distressing footage of an Indigenous child being forcibly removed from a home and put into the back of a police van has led to Indigenous human rights advocates to call for an immediate investigation. The video footage - first obtained by The Australian - showed armed NT police wrestling an 11-year-old foster child - known as Benny (not his real name) from a home and into the cage of a police vehicle.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Pilbara's Kiwirrkurra community endures poor infrastructure and no running water for three years

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/09/2023

The Pintupi people of the Kiwirrkurra community, a shire in eastern Pilbara in Western Australia, have not had access to clean running water, a basic human right, for three years. Jodie Ward, Linda James and Bobby West Tjupurrula from the Kiwirrkurra community told National Indigenous Times of their growing concern that the state government is trying to force them off their land by making it uninhabitable.

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Aboriginal health practitioners funding boost for dental training

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/09/2023

The Victorian Government has announced a second round of training grants for Aboriginal health practitioners to take part in preventative dental training. The grants are now open for practitioners wanting to become accredited in the application of fluoride varnish, a preventative dental treatment that helps reduce the risk of tooth decay.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Second gastro outbreak linked to function venue

Age, General News, 21/09/2023, Alex Crowe, Page 1

Health professionals became ill after a medical conference dinner at an Albert Park function space just days before a wedding at the same venue left more than 70 guests with gastroenteritis. Several people who attended the annual Australia and New Zealand Burns Association conference were admitted to The Alfred hospital with suspected gastro following a dinner held at The Park on Wednesday last week, the second night of the conference.

Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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There's no sting in El Nino's tail

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2023, Eli Green, Page 6

An unexpected perk has come out of the El Nino being officially announced, with the hot and dry conditions set to lower mosquito numbers this summer. The Bureau of Meteorology declared on Tuesday that an El Nino climate pattern is underway, meaning that Australians are set to be hit by scorching temperatures as summer approaches.

New standards break barrier to pharmacist vaccination services

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 20/09/2023

Chickenpox and meningitis B are among diseases pharmacists can immunise against under new vaccination standards launched in NSW. Barriers blocking patients from accessing vaccination services are being broken down with new standards enabling pharmacists to administer immunisations for 19 conditions.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

New weapon in cancer fight

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/09/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 17

Andrei Norris has endured radiation treatment, hormone therapy and six rounds of chemotherapy in a battle to rid himself of prostate cancer and now the 51-year-old is hopeful that a groundbreaking new diagnostic testing agent will make it easier for Tasmanian men like him to fight the deadly disease. [...] That tool is Illuccix, the only PSMA-PET/CT diagnostic to be registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for the detection and staging of prostate cancer.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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The ASX health heroes on quest to cancel cancer

The Australian, Other, 20/09/2023, Nadine Mcgrath

Cancer is global health enemy No.1. And a new generation of ASX stocks is continuing Australia's proud history of taking on the killer. [...] As mentioned above, TLX has secured regulatory approvals from the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Health Canada, for its prostate cancer imaging agent Illuccix.

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What is 'sun debt' and how can you avoid it?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/09/2023, Holly Berckelman

The weather's heating up which serves as the best reminder to stock up on your sunscreen. Here, Ultra Violette co-founder Ava Matthews talks how to avoid sun debt, the biggest misconceptions about SPF, and why sun protection is worth talking about. [...] Since the Therapeutic Goods Administration tightened the regulations around marketing and talking about sunscreen last year, banning personal testimonies about sunscreen if they weren't purchased by the creator, discussions around the importance of sunscreen have dropped off a cliff.

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TGA fines unlawful ads

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/09/2023

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued infringement notices to the company Naturally Elevated Pty Ltd and an individual for the alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis on websites and social media pages. The company allegedly promoted the use or supply of prescription-only medicinal cannabis.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Drug laws a step in the right direction

Canberra Times, General News, 21/09/2023, Anita Mills, Page 22

Evidence shows that decriminalisation is an effective measure in a reducing harm caused by drug use, combatting stigma and diverting people away from the legal system. The evidence also shows that decriminalisation should not be undertaken in isolation of other steps, including an increase in the capacity and accessibility of specialist treatment programs and supports.

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Labor slammed for lack of funds for state drug summit

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/09/2023, Max Maddison, Page 5

The NSW government's failure to fund the promised drug summit has been slammed as "astonishing" by the former commissioner of the state's ice inquiry, who said the ongoing paralysis was a "shameful continuation of the longstanding drug policy vacuum in NSW".

Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

PFAS land use review is launched by federal government

Daily Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2023, Matthew Kelly, Page 6

The federal government will undertake an independent review into possible productive uses for hundreds of thousands of hectares Department of Defence land contaminated with Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. [...] "The findings of this review will be important in informing the government about how to help communities affected by PFAS contamination around Defence bases," Mr Thistlethwaite said.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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PFAS review will plot 'best way forward' for red zone: Albanese

Newcastle Herald, General News, 21/09/2023, Matthew Kelly, Page 5

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has urged Williamstown red-zone residents to get involved in a review of how to best use PFAS-contaminated land around the RAAF base. But he declined yesterday to commit to funding buy-backs that are likely to be essential to achieving the government's goal of repurposing the land for productive uses. The review, to be undertaken by Jim Varghese, was a Labor election promise.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Anger after biggest schools on Gold Coast left waiting three decades to decontaminate asbestos

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 20/09/2023, Amaani Siddeek

Australia's worst industrial health crisis since asbestos has seen the rates of silicosis nearly double among Queensland stonemasons. A \$2 million statewide audit has seen 186 Queensland stonemasons or nearly 20 per cent of the industry diagnosed with the respiratory disease. Silicosis is an irreversible scarring of the lungs caused by inhaling silica dust. The federal government established

a \$5 million national dust disease task force last year and is expected to increase its national response in 2020. Image: Getty

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